



Position Announcement: Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with Focus on Medicaid Advocacy

Greater Hartford Legal Aid, in partnership with the Connecticut Health Foundation, seeks a **Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with a Focus on Medicaid Advocacy**, with an anticipated start date in January 2022.

About the Organizations

Incorporated in 1958, **Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA)** advocates for low-income people through a variety of strategies including policy, systemic and individual advocacy. GHLA works to achieve equal justice for poor people, to work with clients to promote social justice, and to address the effects and root causes of poverty, including structural inequality, racism and violence. Throughout GHLA's history its approach has been collaborative and flexible, identifying emerging issues while building new partnerships and identifying innovative approaches. GHLA's priorities include improving the health, health equity, and safety of clients who are low-income, elderly or disabled; helping workers move toward economic stability; protecting victims of family violence; preserving benefits for those who cannot work; preventing homelessness and preserving habitable housing; and increasing educational opportunities for children.

Over the past 60+ years, GHLA has also engaged in litigation, legislative and policy efforts that have achieved significant systemic results for the low-income community. These include *Carr v. Wilson-Coker*, which successfully challenged the inadequate access to dental services for Medicaid recipients and led to significant improvements in low-income children's access to dental health care.

GHLA's anti-poverty and anti-racism advocacy is pursued by a diverse, experienced staff, in collaboration with community partners in the dynamic Greater Hartford area.

The **Connecticut Health Foundation (CT Health)** believes that everyone deserves the opportunity for optimal health—regardless of race, background or income level. CT Health strives to improve the health and well-being of people all across the state by using a systems change approach to unlock greater access to quality, affordable care, especially for populations of color and underserved communities.

CT Health is the state's largest independent health philanthropy dedicated to improving lives by changing health systems. Since it was established in 1999, CT Health has supported innovative grant-making, public health policy research, technical assistance and convening to achieve its mission - to improve the health of the people of Connecticut. Its current Strategic Plan

envisions a Connecticut where everyone — regardless of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status — can achieve optimal health. To make this a reality, the organization focuses on four areas that are critical to ensuring that the next generation will not face the same persistent racial and ethnic health disparities as their parents: Coverage and Access; Improve Care Delivery; Linking Care to Community; and Advocacy and Leadership.

CT Health's vision, pursued through research, policy advocacy and leadership development, is that Connecticut's next generation will be free from racial and ethnic health disparities.

The Opportunity

The COVID-19 public health crisis has laid bare stark disparities in health outcomes for African-American and Latinx people in Connecticut. The purpose of the Fellowship is to address these and other health disparities through systems change by developing diverse leaders in the state who have the knowledge, skills, and courage to build more equitable health systems, organizations, and communities.

The Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with Focus on Medicaid Advocacy (Fellow) will be supported to grow professionally and develop relationships within GHLA, CT Health, and the broader health equity policy advocacy community. The long-term goal is for the Fellow to influence systems change for communities of color in Connecticut.

The Fellow will be based at GHLA, and strongly supported by CT Health. The Fellow will spend two years completing and documenting a series of rotations with a variety of organizations and agencies in Connecticut that have a demonstrated track record in Medicaid-and health equity-related advocacy, including one rotation at GHLA working with legal services policy advocates.

High Priority Roles and Responsibilities:

- Listen to key constituents and stakeholders, while seeking out the perspectives of those impacted by the unequal delivery of health care
- Lobby the Connecticut General Assembly, in collaboration with key policy leaders
- Collaborate and establish networks
- Engage in meaningful and informed discussions regarding health and benefits issues and the impact of health inequities
- Think strategically
- Research existing literature and learn about substantive systemic health equity issues, with a particular focus on health inequities and Medicaid advocacy
- Develop and enhance leadership skills
- Write and speak accessibly and persuasively about health issues
- Identify opportunities for systemic advocacy and recognize barriers and problem solve
- Advocate regarding health inequities and Medicaid policy
- Complete a project or create a product that advances health equity

Structure of the Fellowship:

The Health Equity Advocacy Fellow will work approximately half a day a week with the Connecticut Health Foundation and at least one day a week and one rotation during the fellowship with GHLA working on health and benefits-related systemic advocacy issues.

This is a full-time grant-funded time-limited two-year position. It is anticipated that the Fellowship will begin in January 2022. The position's annual salary starts at \$62,000, depending on experience. The fellow will also be eligible for benefits including medical and dental insurance, long-term disability insurance, life insurance, as well as generous paid sick, vacation and holiday leave.

Qualifications of the Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with Focus on Medicaid Advocacy:

- Graduate degree in public health, medicine, law, public administration or related field, or extensive experience working in the public health or public policy arena
- Demonstrated commitment to working to further equity and inclusion
- Superior interpersonal, oral and written communication skills
- Critical and strategic thinking ability
- Excellent administrative and organizational skills, including ability to self-direct and work as a team member
- Demonstrated experience working with and in diverse populations, which include race, nationality, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability and other identities
- Demonstrated commitment to the values of GHLA's mission and work

Confidential Application Process:

To encourage all interested and qualified applicants to apply, the hiring process will be confidential. *Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled, with priority given to those received by September 15, 2021.*

Interested candidates should submit a letter expressing in detail their interest in the position of **Health Equity Advocacy Fellow with a Focus on Medicaid Advocacy**, and what they believe they can contribute to the future of health policy advocacy. The letter should be accompanied by a current resume, two writing samples and three references. Materials should be emailed to HealthEquityFellow@ghla.org.

GHLA actively seeks people who bring diverse backgrounds and perspectives to join us in our work. As an equal opportunity employer, GHLA will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicant's race, color, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, veteran or disability status or any other factor prohibited by law.

